



U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Benefit Information

The U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Benefit program was created to assist U.S. Coast Guard Members who use any federal child care center, or any state licensed child care facility in the Continental US (CONUS) and outside the Continental US (OCONUS) which includes child development centers as well as in licensed home child care providers to provide childcare for their children.

The benefit is available to Active Duty Crew Members and Active Duty Reservists called to action for 180 days or longer. Families will qualify for subsidy benefits in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Benefit Table and is based upon the Member's Total Family Income (TFI) (TFI = Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) + Annual BAS + Annual BAH II).

Eligibility to receive benefits can only be determined once all documents have been submitted to the GSA Subsidy Administration Section for review. A determination of benefits will be completed at which time the Member will receive an email from the GSA informing them of the benefit that they may be entitled to and the effective date. ***Please be advised that the Member/Family is financially responsible for all child care costs until the Member/Family has been informed by the GSA that a U.S. Coast Guard Subsidy benefit has been approved on the Member's behalf.***

In order to apply for benefits the Member must complete and submit to the GSA Child Care Subsidy Section the following documents:

Member/Family Information *(Application must be completed within 30 days of receipt of initial document(s))*

- Parent Child Care Application, OPM Form 1643
- U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Application Addendum USCG Form 2011-02
- Two (2) Leave and Earnings Statements (LES) for the qualifying USCG Member
Must be dated within 90 days of the date of the Member's initial application and be consecutive pay periods
- Copy of the Member's Active Duty Orders or a print out of Direct Access in the Self Service area of the Member's status. (Log into Direct Access - Home - Self Service - Employee - View – Background Tab)
- A copy of the Member's **most recent** Federal Tax Return Form 1040 along with any schedules that were included with the Member's return
- A copy of the Member's BAH/Dependency Data Sheet CG Form 4170, must be signed and dated within the last year, certifying that the information contained on the form is correct
- A copy of the child's mother, father or other income earning partners, 4 weeks/1 month most recent pay statement(s) or student school schedule that meets one or more of the following:
 - a) Spouse/partner must be working a minimum of 20 hours per week
 - b) Actively seeking employment
 - c) Enrolled in school full time
 - d) In the process of enrolling in school full time
 - e) A combination of work and school
- A copy of the Member's spouse/partner's **most recent** Federal Tax Return, Form 1040 if filed separately

Provider Information

- U.S. Coast Guard Family Enrollment Provider Cost Verification Form USCG 2015-01
- A copy of your qualifying child care provider's license or letter of accreditation



U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Benefit Information (Continued)

The forms and documents listed on page 1 of this document are required for a standard application. Please note that your situation and application may require additional documents and/or information.

The complete application package should be submitted directly to GSA for processing via email or fax.

Upon receipt of the application package, the GSA will calculate the benefit for which the qualifying Member may be eligible and will notify the family as well as their child care facility via email.

The child care facility will receive a benefit package that will include the following documents:

- a) Provider Benefit Acceptance Letter; instructions on billing the GSA on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard
- b) Invoice(s) to bring the Member's account current
- c) A sample invoice to be used for future billings. The child care facility will then be responsible for billing the GSA on a monthly basis for childcare services on behalf of the Member. The subsidy will be paid directly to the child care provider and the family's bill will reflect the reduction in cost that will result from this subsidy. Invoices must be submitted within 90 days of the end of the period of service in order for payment to be issued. Invoices submitted after 90 days following the end of the period of service will not be eligible for payment resulting in the Member being financially responsible for the child care cost incurred for that period of service.

If you have any questions or need any additional assistance, please feel free to contact the GSA Child Care Subsidy Section at (866) 508-0371.

Please note that policies, procedures and/or information required to complete the application process are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the U.S. Coast Guard.

GSA/U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Team
Fax: (816) 823-5445
Email: uscgchildcare@gsa.gov

U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Update

Fee Category	Total Family Income (TFI)	Member Minimum Portion Per Week	Member Minimum Portion Per Month	Maximum Benefit Child #1	Maximum Benefit Child #2	Maximum Benefit Child #3
I	0 – 30,466	\$58	\$251	\$7,800	\$6,800	\$6,800
II	30,467 - 36,993	\$73	\$316	\$6,630	\$5,630	\$5,630
III	36,994 - 47,873	\$89	\$386	\$5,320	\$4,320	\$4,320
IV	47,874 – 59,841	\$103	\$446	\$4,800	\$3,800	\$3,800
V	59,842 - 76,162	\$119	\$516	\$4,020	\$3,020	\$3,020
VI	76,163 – 88,079	\$130	\$563	\$3,240	\$2,240	\$2,240
VII	88,080 - 103,622	\$134	\$581	\$2,560	\$1,560	\$1,560
VIII	103,623 – 129,572	\$138	\$598	\$1,680	\$680	\$680
IX	129,573 & Above	\$142	\$615	\$900	0	0

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Child Care Subsidy Application Checklist

_____ Printed name of qualifying USCG Member

Please submit the following completed documentation in this order to assist us in expediting the Member's application for benefits:

_____ U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Program Member Statement of Understanding (**Mandatory**)

_____ Parent Application OPM Form 1643 (**Mandatory**)

_____ Application Addendum USCG Form 2011-02 (**Mandatory**)

_____ Two (2) Leave and Earnings Statements (LES) for the qualifying USCG Member (**Mandatory**) ***Must be dated within 90 days of the date of your initial application and be consecutive periods of pay**

_____ Copy of the Member's Active Duty Orders or a print out of Direct Access in the Self Service area of your status. (Log into Direct Access - Home - Self Service - Employee - View - Background Tab) (**Mandatory**)

_____ Copy of the Member's most recently filed Federal Tax Return - Only Form 1040/1040A/1040EZ, **UNLESS** business income/loss, capital gains/losses, other gains/losses, rental real estate, royalties, or pension and/or annuities, are listed on the Form 1040/1040A. In this case the complete tax return must be submitted to determine which figures may be included or excluded in the calculation of benefits. (**Mandatory**)

_____ BAH Dependency Data Sheet CG Form 4170 that has been signed and dated within the last year (**Mandatory**)

_____ Power of Attorney (**as applicable**)

_____ Misc. Legal Documentation - Divorce Decree, Separation Documents, etc. (**as applicable**)

_____ Copy of the spouse/partner, to include unmarried legal parents/partners, 4 weeks/1 month most recent pay statement(s) reflecting a minimum of 20 hours per week or full time school schedule and USCG Certification of Higher Education Form 2015-09

_____ Certification for Seeking Employment or Enrolling in School - USCG Form 2010-04 (**if applicable**)

_____ Copy of the spouse/partner's most recent Federal Tax Return if filed separately (**Mandatory**)

_____ Family Enrollment Provider Cost Verification Form USCG 2015-01 (**Mandatory - To be completed by your qualifying provider**)

The forms and documents listed above are required for a standard application. Please note that your situation and application may require additional documents and or information.

Fax: (816) 823-5445 Scan and email to: uscgchildcare@gsa.gov

U.S. Mail: GSA, Subsidy Administration Section
2300 Main St - 2SE
Kansas City, MO 64108

U.S. General Services Administration
2300 Main St - 2SE, KCMO 64108
Tel: (866) 508-0371 • Fax: (816) 823-5445
uscgchildcare@gsa.gov
USCG 2012-04

U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Member Statement of Understanding

- ◆ Families are financially responsible for all child care costs until a U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Benefit has been awarded and accepted by both the Member and child care provider.
- ◆ Families are eligible for USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit only if/when their application has been approved.
- ◆ Families participating in other subsidy benefit programs may be eligible for a USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit, however the benefit is calculated after these discounts have been applied to the standard rate.
- ◆ You must be in an **Active Duty Status** with the U.S. Coast Guard in order to be eligible to receive benefits under this program. Any change in your status with the U.S. Coast Guard must be reported to the GSA Subsidy Administration Section immediately for further review.
- ◆ You must notify the GSA Subsidy Administration Section if and when your child is no longer enrolled with the qualified child care provider identified on your application. The subsidy is not transferable to another child care provider. You must reapply for the subsidy should you change child care arrangements.
- ◆ Invoices must be submitted to the GSA Subsidy Administration Section on a monthly basis in order for the USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit to be paid. Invoices must be properly completed and submitted to the GSA within 90 days of the period of service in order for payment to be issued. Invoices submitted after 90 days following the end of the period of service will not be eligible for payment resulting in the Member being financially responsible for the child care cost incurred for that period of service.
- ◆ Any change to the families cost for any reason must be reported to the GSA Subsidy Administration Section as soon it has been identified.
- ◆ If your child care provider's standing with their state child care licensing authority changes or is revoked, this information must be reported to the GSA Subsidy Administration Section immediately.
- ◆ You are responsible for reporting any changes in your personal and/or financial situation, or that of your spouse/partner, that may affect your status as a U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy recipient; such as but not limited to any change in employment, school enrollment, marriage, divorce, a partner who has entered or left the home, etc. Failure to promptly report any change to the GSA Subsidy Administration Section that causes an erroneous payment on your behalf may result in your Child Care Subsidy Benefit being terminated and subsequent collection action of the erroneous payment from you.
- ◆ As a participant in the USCG Child Care Subsidy Program, you agree to provide any and all information requested by the GSA Subsidy Administration Section and/or the USCG related to your application, payments issued on your behalf, eligibility and the child care costs charged to you by your provider.
- ◆ Due to the variation of oversight and regulation in different states and based upon official USCG guidance, the GSA Subsidy Administration Section reserves the right to determine which types of child care providers in each state meet the minimum eligibility requirements for participation in USCG Child Care Subsidy Program.
- ◆ Any program policy infraction to include but not limited to providing incorrect child care cost, knowingly or unknowingly which causes an overpayment of a USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit may result in you being disqualification from the program. In addition repayment of monies received due to this misrepresentation will be required.

By completing the application process through the GSA Subsidy Administration Section, I attest that I have received, read and understand the U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program guidelines as set forth in the handbook

Signature of U.S. Coast Guard Member

Date

Printed Name of U.S. Coast Guard Member

Last 4 of SSN

Parents who misrepresent information used to calculate their subsidy benefit may have their subsidy benefit terminated and be subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and/or other legal consequences.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY APPLICATION FORM DEPARTMENT _____

(Insert Federal Agency Name)

The department _____ may contact the applicant to request clarification on the subsidy application.

(Insert name of organization administering the program)

You must attach the following documents:

1. Pay statements for the most recent two pay periods for each parent or guardian;
2. A copy of your most recent Federal and State income tax returns;
3. A copy of your child care provider's most recent license or statement of compliance with State and/or local child care regulations; and
4. A completed OPM form 1644, signed by the provider(s) below.

Section I - Parent / Legal Guardian Information

Applications that are not fully completed or do not contain the information listed below will not be processed and will be returned to the applicant. If you do not provide all of the information requested, you will not receive a subsidy award. When more than one parent works for the Federal Government, subsidies cannot be awarded for the child/children by more than one Federal agency.

1. Name <i>(Last, first, middle initial)</i>		2. Social Security Number (SSN)	3. Grade
4. Work address <i>(Include street number, city, state and ZIP code)</i>		5. Work e-mail address	
		6. Work telephone number	
7. Home address <i>(Include street number, city, state and ZIP code)</i>		8. Home e-mail address	
		9. Home telephone number	
10. Category of parent Single Couple	11. Spouse federal employee Yes No	12. Name of spouse <i>(Last, first, middle initial)</i>	
		13. Employing agency of spouse	14. Grade of spouse
15. Total family income as reported on adjusted gross income line of most recent IRS form 1040/1040A <i>*Include a copy of the IRS form</i>			

Section II - Child Information

List information for all children for whom you are applying for a subsidy. *(If you are applying for more than three children please attach the pertinent information to this form)*

1a. Name of first child	b. SSN of child	c. Date of birth <i>(MM/DD/YYYY)</i>
d. Name of child care provider	e. Weekly child care cost	f. Date of enrollment <i>(MM/DD/YYYY)</i>
g. Type of application <i>(Check one)</i> New family Adding/changing family information Reapplication <i>(previously enrolled, not current)</i> Annual recertification Changing provider information <i>(attach new license and OPM Form 1644)</i>		
h. Is any other form of State, County or Local subsidy being received for the child(ren)? Yes <i>(If "Yes", complete i. and j.)</i> No	i. Source of subsidy	
	j. Amount of subsidy	
k. Address of provider <i>(Include street number, city, state and ZIP code)</i>	l. Telephone number of child care provider	
	m. Type of care <i>(Check one)</i>	Center-based care Family home-based care

Section II - Child Information (Continued)

2a. Name of second child	b. SSN of child	c. Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
d. Name of child care provider	e. Weekly child care cost	f. Date of enrollment (MM/DD/YYYY)
g. Type of application (Check one) New family Adding/changing family information Reapplication (previously enrolled, not current) Annual recertification Changing provider information (attach new license and OPM Form 1644)		
h. Is any other form of State, County or Local subsidy being received for the child(ren)? Yes (If "Yes", complete i. and j.) No	i. Source of subsidy	
	j. Amount of subsidy	
k. Address of provider (Include street number, city, state and ZIP code)	l. Telephone number of child care provider	
	m. Type of care (Check one)	Center-based care Family home-based care
3a. Name of third child	b. SSN of child	c. Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
d. Name of child care provider	e. Weekly child care cost	f. Date of enrollment (MM/DD/YYYY)
g. Type of application (Check one) New family Adding/changing family information Reapplication (previously enrolled, not current) Annual recertification Changing provider information (attach new license and OPM Form 1644)		
h. Is any other form of State, County or Local subsidy being received for the child(ren)? Yes (If "Yes", complete i. and j.) No	i. Source of subsidy	
	j. Amount of subsidy	
k. Address of provider (Include street number, city, state and ZIP code)	l. Telephone number of child care provider	
	m. Type of care (Check one)	Center-based care Family home-based care

Section III - Signature of Parent / Legal Guardian

I understand that it is a Federal crime under United States Code 18, Section 1001, to make a false statement on this form. If I make a false statement, I agree to be subject to criminal prosecution and punishment including a fine, imprisonment, or both. In addition, I may be subject to administrative punishment, including the termination of my federal employment.

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

_____ Signature _____ Date of signature (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Privacy Act Statement
 Public Law 107-67, § 630 (September, 2001) confers regulatory authority on OPM for agency use of appropriated funds for child care costs for lower income Federal employees. Public Law 104-134 (April 26, 1996) requires that any person doing business with the Federal Government furnish a Social Security Number or tax identification number. This is an amendment to title 31, Section 7701. The primary use of these Social Security Numbers will be for identification purposes in determining eligibility for child care subsidy. The primary use of information regarding family income (copies of pay slips and tax returns), name of current child care provider, copies of the provider's license, statement of compliance, and information about other child care subsidies is also used to determine eligibility for child care subsidy. Disclosure of the above information is voluntary, but failure to provide all of the requested information may result in denial of your application.



U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Application Addendum

Printed Name of Qualifying Member: _____

I) Status of member: (Please check all that apply)

____ Activated/Deployed U.S. Coast Guard Service Member

____ Reserve Member called to Active Duty (Minimum 180 days or longer)

____ Married

____ Single

____ Divorced

____ Separated

____ Other, please specify _____

Provide information confirming status, for example:
Orders, Divorce Decree, BAH/Dependency Data Sheet, or other legal document(s).

II) Number of hours that the spouse/significant other works: _____
(*Minimum of 20 hours per week)

III) Number of credit hours that the spouse/partner attends school to include attending a community college, university, technical school or on-line classes:

Graduate _____ Undergraduate _____

(*A minimum number of 6 credit hours must be met in order to qualify for benefits)

***Any combination of work and school may also be permitted**



U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Application Addendum

IV) Does the child/children for whom you are applying for benefits reside in the home with you?
_____Yes _____No If no, please provide an explanation and location

where the child/children reside:

V) Schedule of Care Needed:

Number of hours of enrollment:

Week #1 _____

Week #2 _____

Week #3 _____

Week #4 _____

Additional days and/or hours:

Parents who misrepresent information used to calculate Child Care Subsidy Benefits may have their benefit terminated and be subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) or other legal consequences.

Qualifying USCG Member Signature

Date

Printed Name of Qualifying Member



U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Certification of Higher Education

The U.S. Coast Guard requires that the spouse/partner of the qualifying U.S. Coast Guard Member be attending school full time in order to qualify for benefits under the U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program. For Member's whose spouse/partner is a student, this form must be completed and returned to the GSA in order to determine your eligibility to receive benefits under the USCG Child Care Subsidy Program.

This form must be completed and returned to the GSA in addition to the student's school schedule and/or enrollment information

Student's Name: _____

School Name: _____

Graduate: _____ Undergraduate: _____

Start Date: _____

Semester End Date: _____

Student's expected enrollment: Spring _____ Summer _____ Fall _____ Winter _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

Child Care needed: _____ Part Time _____ Full Time

I will notify The General Services Administration (GSA) at (866) 508-0371 to report change in my Spouse/Partner's attendance.

I understand that each time my spouse/partner receives an updated school schedule and/or enrollment information, that I must provide a copy of the document to the GSA in order to validate my continued eligibility in the U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program.

I further understand that my Child Care Subsidy benefit will be discontinued if my spouse/partner does not maintain full time enrollment as stated above.

Misrepresentation or falsifying this information may subject the individual to prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and/or applicable State and Federal Laws.

Signature of qualifying USCG Member

Date

Printed name of USCG Member

Spouse/Partner's Signature

Date



Certification for Spouse/Partner who is Seeking Employment or will be Enrolling in School

The U.S. Coast Guard Fee Assistance for child care is authorized for up to 90 business days to allow a spouse/partner to look for employment or enroll in school. This Certification Statement must be completed and signed by the member and their spouse/partner in order to qualify for, or continue to qualify for, fee assistance.

Certification Statement

I _____ certify that

Printed name of qualifying USCG Member

_____ is currently seeking employment or will be enrolling

Printed spouse/partner's name

in school. Mark below, as applicable.

_____ My child/children is/are currently enrolled in full time care

_____ My child/children is/are currently enrolled in part time care

_____ My child/children will be enrolled in full time care

_____ My child/children will be enrolled in part time care

_____ I will not need child care for my child/children during this period and my

child/children's last day of attendance will be _____.

Enter final date that child care benefits are to be paid

I will notify the General Services Administration (GSA) at (866) 508-0371 to report the start date of employment and/or school enrollment date. I will provide a copy of pay stubs or student school schedule to the GSA to ensure that the number of hours worked or enrolled in school meets the minimum requirement as set forth by the U.S. Coast Guard.

I understand that after 90 business days my fee assistance will be discontinued if my spouse/partner does not find employment or enroll in school and provide required pay documents or a valid student school schedule to the GSA.

Misrepresentation or falsifying this information may subject the individual to prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and/or applicable State and Federal Laws.

Signature of qualifying USCG Member

Date

Spouse/Partner's Signature

Date

Note to applicants: The U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Benefit is retroactive from the date your application is received at the GSA pending receipt of all required documents. If supporting documents are not received within 30 business days of application, a new application will need to be filed in order to establish a new child care subsidy benefit start date.



GSA Subsidy Administration Section

U.S. Coast Guard Family Enrollment Provider Cost Verification Form

Provider Name: _____

Vendor # _____ Email: _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Remit to Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Family Action: **New Family Enrollment** **Rate Change** **Attendance Change** **Adding Child**

Please complete one form per child

Printed Name of Qualifying Member: Last: _____ First: _____ MI: _____

Child Name: _____

Child's Enrollment Date (start date of care): _____ Date of Birth (DOB) _____

Type of Care (check all that apply): FT PT Before School Only After School Only Before and After School

Summer/Holiday Full Date Rate (school aged): Daily Rate = _____ Hourly Rate = _____

Number of Days/Week: _____ Number of Hours per day/week: _____

Provide final cost after deducting all discounts:

Weekly Cost \$ _____ Monthly Cost \$ _____

Hourly \$ _____

Billing Method: Calendar Month 4/5 Week Month If 4/5 Week billing, provide day of week billing is based upon _____

Does the Family qualify for or receive any other subsidies or discounts? Yes No

If yes, provide source and amount: Source: _____ Amount: _____

Other Applicable Fees: Registration Fee (note: \$200 maximum may be paid on behalf of each child per provider, per year)

Total Other Fees Charged: \$ _____

Are there any future rate or attendance changes expected within next six (6) months? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

Providers who misrepresent information used to calculate Fee Assistance/Child Care Subsidy Benefit may have their Fee Assistance/Child Care Subsidy terminated and would be removed from the GSA Subsidy Administration Program as a qualifying child care provider.

Printed Name of Qualifying Child Care Provider completing this form

Phone Number

Signature of Provider completing this form

Date

**Child care rates & fees must be submitted to the GSA Subsidy Administration Section annually. Only one rate change per year will be accepted for calculation purposes.*

GSA Subsidy Administration Section
2300 Main Street - 2SE, Kansas City, MO 64108
Tel: (866) 508-0371 • Fax: (816) 823-5445
uscgchildcare@gsa.gov

USCG 2015-01

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
Child Care
Subsidy Program

Family Handbook

U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Family Handbook

Table of Contents

- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ USCG Child Care Program Overview
- ◆ Eligibility Requirements for USCG Families
- ◆ Program Responsibilities
 - ◆ Parent Responsibilities
 - ◆ Provider Responsibilities
 - ◆ GSA Subsidy Administration Section Responsibilities as the Third Party Administrator
 - ◆ USCG Responsibilities
- ◆ Types of Child Care—Qualifications
- ◆ USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit Determination
- ◆ Registrations Fees
- ◆ Eligibility Determination and Payment Process
- ◆ USCG Child Care Subsidy Program Statement of Understanding*

*(*This page must be completed, signed and returned to the GSA Subsidy Section to activate the processing of your USCG Child Care Subsidy Application for benefits)*

How to contact us:

General Services Administration (GSA)

Subsidy Administration Section

2300 Main Street—2SE

Kansas City, MO 64108

Phone: 866-508-0371

Fax: 816-823-5445

Email: uscgchildcare@gsa.gov



U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Family Handbook

Introduction

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Child Care Subsidy Program provides a contribution toward the total cost of child care for Active Duty USCG members and Reservists who have been called to Active Duty for a minimum of 180 consecutive days or longer. The benefit was created to assist members whose children attend off base care allowing eligible families to pay fees comparable to those charged on base. Providers and Parent(s) must apply for benefits via the GSA Subsidy Administration Section (GSA) as the 3rd party administrator for the USCG. The family portion of child care costs plus the amount of the USCG Child Care Subsidy Program Benefits will equal the provider rate. Eligibility will be determined based on USCG Child Care Subsidy Program guidance and may be updated at any time throughout the year per the discretion of the USCG.

- ◆ The USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit is available to Active Duty Members and Active Duty Reservists called to Active Duty for 180 consecutive days or longer.
- ◆ Families may qualify for subsidy benefits in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Benefit Table. The subsidy benefit is based on the member's Total Family Income (TFI) which includes Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and may include business income, rental income, and/or any other recurring income as listed on the most recent federal tax information provided plus Annual Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) plus Annual Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH).
- ◆ Eligibility to receive benefits can only be determined once all documents are submitted to the GSA Subsidy Administration Section for review.
- ◆ Eligibility will be determined based upon the USCG Child Care Subsidy Program guidelines.
- ◆ Program guidelines may be updated at anytime throughout the year per the discretion of the USCG and will be communicated to the GSA for implementation.
- ◆ Additional information on the Child Care Subsidy program can be found at www.uscg.mil/worklife.

USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit Program

The intent of USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit Program is to help meet the needs of eligible Families where the spouse/partner is working and/or attending school. Members must use a licensed and/or accredited child care provider in order to be deemed eligible for benefits. USCG Child Care Subsidy benefits are calculated based upon the child's attendance to include hourly care, daily care, and monthly care with benefits being paid directly to the qualifying provider on a monthly basis on or after the 15th of the month for the current month of care.



U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Family Handbook

Eligibility Requirements for USCG Families

- ◆ Families of Active Duty and Reservist called to Active Duty for 180 consecutive days or longer may be eligible. USCG Civilians are not eligible for benefits.
- ◆ The member's spouse/partner (Two adults living together who are in a relationship to include same sex couples) be working a minimum of 20 hours per week; enrolled in school a minimum of 6 credit hours for spring and fall semesters and/or 6 credit hours for summer, or actively seeking full-time employment.
- ◆ The child/children for which the Member is applying, must be the legal dependent of the USCG member and must be listed on the member's BAH Dependency Data Sheet, CG Form 4170.
- ◆ The benefit is available for children from birth through 12 years of age.
- ◆ A qualifying child care provider must be used for the care of the member's child.
- ◆ The USCG Child Care Subsidy program requires that the child care provider be licensed, regulated, and/or accredited in order to be considered a qualifying child care provider.
- ◆ Care provided in the home where the family/child resides is not authorized under the USCG Child Care Subsidy Program guidelines.

Program Responsibilities

Once you determine that you may qualify for benefits based upon the criteria above, you may apply for a USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit. Please be aware that there are responsibilities that you, your provider, the GSA Subsidy Administration Section, and the USCG have once this process begins. These responsibilities are to ensure that USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit Program guidelines are adhered to based upon the intent of the program.

The responsibilities for each party are outlined below.

Parent Responsibilities:

1. The Member/Family will be financially responsible for all child care costs until their application for child care subsidy benefits has been approved and the Member and their child care provider have signed and returned their USCG Child Care Subsidy Program Benefit Letter.
2. Complete the application process ensuring that all required forms have been submitted to the GSA in order to determine eligibility.
3. Meet program guidelines and use a qualifying child care provider.
4. Sign the GSA Invoice/Attendance form each and every month to request payment.
5. Pay the Family portion of child care costs directly to the provider including any additional charges for services that you may incur including field trips, non-essential supplies, late fees, etc.
6. Report any change to your child care needs immediately to the program administrator (GSA) and your child care provider.
7. Report **immediately** any changes in:
 - ◆ Your Family's size, such as someone moving in or out of the household
 - ◆ Work, training, or education schedule
 - ◆ Your Family's address or telephone number (work and home)
 - ◆ Your Family's legal obligation to pay child support
 - ◆ Any change in marital status
8. Make payment arrangements for child care needed for personal reasons that are not authorized.
9. Ensure that child care providers used while participating in the USCG Child Care Program are promptly paid for all child care services rendered. Failure to pay the required Member portion to any child care provider may result in the Member being disqualified from the program for one year.

U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Family Handbook

Provider Responsibilities:

- 1) All providers must meet the USCG child care licensing and accreditation requirements for the type of child care business they operate under the USCG Child Care Subsidy Program. The following types of child care programs are accepted under the USCG Program guidelines:

Family Child Care:

Family child care is home-based care provided for a portion of the day in a private family home for compensation on a regular, ongoing basis and must be inhabited by the family/individual that is providing care. States limit the provider's hours of operation and number of children who can be cared for in a home environment. Family child care providers must be licensed by the state and the care providers must have basic training in first aid, safety, and child care, child abuse and neglect prevention. Many in-home providers also have training in early education.

Center Based Child Care:

Commercial child care centers/day care centers provide child care in a group setting for a set number of hours and provide standardized and regulated care. There are planned educational activities and children may be grouped by age or placed in mixed age groupings. Day care centers are licensed to provide care for infants, toddlers, and/or pre-school age and they are usually open all day. Classes are usually largest in this type of care; ratios of children to adult caregivers will vary according to state licensing requirements. This type of environment will allow for the children to gain independence, academic achievement, and socialization skills.

Federal Based Child Care:

Some Federal agencies sponsor on-site child care centers for their employees and families seeking to use this type of child care. The space at federal child care centers may be available to non-federal employees however, priority for child care services will be given to federal employees.

Please note that the U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program benefit offered through the GSA is not available to Members who are using a USCG Child Development Center (CDC) or a Department of Defense (DOD) Child Development Center as you are currently paying child care rates that are comparable or equal to this program benefit.



U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Family Handbook

Provider Responsibilities: (continued)

2. Meet program rules and requirements in order to receive a USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit.
3. Keep complete and accurate attendance records according to licensing and accreditation regulations and/or contract requirements. Maintain records for future reference as needed.
4. Bill for the USCG Child Care Subsidy using the directions and invoice/attendance form as provided.
5. Submit to the program administrator (GSA), any changes/updates to status as a licensed and/or accredited child care provider.
6. Provide timely notification if/when a USCG member's child or children have left care.
7. Provide timely notification if/when a USCG member's child's rate and/or attendance changes.
8. Providers may submit **one rate** change per year and will be required to notify the GSA at least 15 days prior to the effective date of the change. Failure to promptly report updates and/or changes to your child care rates may result in an over or underpayment. Additional rate changes not associated with an attendance change or when the child ages up will not be processed.
9. Must submit Invoice & Attendance records to the GSA that are properly completed and signed by both the Member, Spouse or POA along with a representative of the child care center for payment. Invoices not properly completed and submitted to the GSA within 3 months of the period of service, will be considered void and will not be honored for payment.

GSA Subsidy Administration Section Responsibilities as the Third Party Administrator:

1. Determine a family's eligibility for child care subsidies based upon USCG Child Care Subsidy Program guidance and benefit tables.
2. Authorize benefits based on the amount of child care needed by eligible families for approved child care.
3. Pay providers for authorized and billed child care services provided to an eligible family.
4. Inform families and providers of USCG Child Care Subsidy Program updates as applicable. (e.g. Start/end date, payments, notifications of expired documents, etc.).
5. Assess and resolve overpayments and underpayments.
6. Answer questions related to eligibility, authorizations, and payments.
7. Will inform the Member within 10 days of the receipt of a Family's application that their application has been accepted and is either **Complete** or **Incomplete**. If the application is incomplete, the GSA will inform the Member of the information/documents needed in order to complete the application process.

U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Family Handbook

USCG Responsibilities:

1. Develop operational guidance for the USCG Child Care Subsidy Program and ensure that the GSA has the most current guidance and applicable policies.
2. Ensure that the GSA, as the third party program administrator, follows all established guidelines as set forth by the USCG.
3. Perform audits on records and files ensuring proper documentation is maintained in accordance with established operational guidance.

Child Care Qualifications: Full Time vs Part Time

The child/children's attendance will determine the calculation of benefits as full time or part time with the family being responsible for any balance above the authorized benefit. The type of care and status of the spouse must be evaluated to determine if the USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit should be full-time, part-time, or unauthorized due to insufficient hours. Full-time and part-time care is authorized based upon the USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit and is defined as follows:

USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit Important Facts

- ◆ The Fee Category Table below provides the Total Family Income Fee Category and the Maximum Benefit allowed per child per year. The U.S. Coast Guard updates the Fee Category Table each year effective 01 January.

The table below is effective Date: 01, January 215 through 31, December 2015

TFI Category		Maximum Subsidy Allowed per Year		
		1 st Child	2 nd Child	3 rd Child
Category I	0 – 30,466	7800 dollars	6800 dollars	6800 dollars
Category II	30,467 - 36,993	6630	5630	5630
Category III	36,994 – 47,873	5320	4320	4320
Category IV	47,874 – 59,841	4800	3800	3800
Category V	59,842 – 76,162	4020	3020	3020
Category VI	76,163 – 88,079	3240	2240	2240
Category VII	88,080 – 103,622	2560	1560	1560
Category VIII	103,623 – 129,572	1680	680	680
Category IX	129,573 +	900	0	0

- ◆ Both parents and providers must remain eligible for the USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit in order to receive payment.

U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Family Handbook

USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit Important Facts - continued

- ◆ The amount listed on the USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit Authorization Letter is the amount that will be paid monthly directly to the child care provider. If the family terminates child care and/or switches to a new child care provider, the monthly USCG child care subsidy benefit is pro-rated. In either case, the member/family is responsible for any remaining balance.
- ◆ Providers may submit **one rate** change per year and will be required to notify the GSA at least 15 days prior to the effective date of the change. Failure to promptly report updates and/or changes to your child care rates may result in an over or underpayment. Additional rate changes not associated with an attendance change or when the child ages up will not be processed
- ◆ During summer months, school-age child care rates may change based upon attendance, at which time the benefit will be recalculated.
- ◆ Child care rates submitted as a weekly rate will be multiplied by 4.33 to determine the monthly rate.
- ◆ The USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit will **NOT** pay fees for:
 - Months in which no care occurs
 - Lateness/Tardiness
 - Transportation
 - Field trips
 - Food
 - Any other miscellaneous fees
 - Tuition for part-day kindergarten and/or elementary education
- ◆ USCG Child Care Subsidy benefits will not be made to more than one provider for the same child/children for the same hours of care.
- ◆ All child care payments are made directly to the child care provider. Payments are made within seven (7) to ten (10) business days from verification of a complete and accurate attendance record.
- ◆ USCG Members must ensure that their provider submits invoices in a timely manner in order for payment to be issued on their behalf. Invoices may be submitted by the Provider or the Member directly to GSA for payment.
- ◆ Under no circumstances will child care payments be made to the Family. Families are required to make clear and concise arrangements with their child care provider related to account credits or reimbursements.
- ◆ Child care providers will only be paid for child/children listed on the USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit Authorization Letter. If the family adds a child or children to the program after their original authorization date, they must submit information for program benefit recalculation.

U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Family Handbook

Registration Fees

Providers will be paid for registration fees up to \$200 per year per child as long as the Member has not exceeded the maximum benefit as authorized by the U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program guidelines

Payment Process

Payments are issued directly to the family's child care provider. Each provider will received a USCG Child Care Subsidy Benefit Invoice & Attendance Form for each family that qualifies for USCG child care subsidy benefit. Per USCG guidance, each Invoice & Attendance Form submitted to the GSA for payment must be properly completed and must include the signature of a qualifying child care provider program official along with the Member, the Member's Spouse/Partner, or the Member's Power of Attorney.

Please note that if a Power of Attorney (POA) is signing the form on behalf of the Member, the program administrator (GSA) must have a copy of the most current POA in order to process for payment.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Child Care Subsidy Program Invoice & Attendance Form															
Provider:		ABC CHILD CARE													
Address:		123 MAIN STREET ANYTOWN, USA 12345													
<small>Remit to Address if different than above:</small>															
<small>Email address: ABCCHILDCARE@XXX.COM</small>															
Tax ID #		987654321				&		00001		Agency Rep		USCG00			
Phone #		(555) 456-7899						Fax #		(555) 456-7888					
Member Name JOHN SMITH															
Month of Service _____															
<small>To complete the attendance record, place an "X" for each day of care provided or day that the family will be billed, "N C" for NO CHARGE or "T" if service was TERMINATED</small>															
Attendance & Billing Record:															
Child Name		CINDY SMITH													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Total Cost \$ _____															
Less Member/Family Monthly Portion \$		300.00													
USCG Balance Due \$		_____													
<small>MAXIMUM BENEFIT \$400.00 PER MONTH</small>															
Provider Signature _____															
Member Signature _____															
<small>Providers or parents who misrepresent information used to calculate Child Care Subsidy Benefits may have their benefit terminated and be subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) or other legal consequences.</small>															
Return completed Invoice & Attendance Form via any of the following:															
Fax: (816) 823-5498				Mail: General Services Administration / Attention: Child Care											
Email: uscginvoices.childcare@gsa.gov				2300 Main St - 2SE											
Questions: (866) 508-0371				Kansas City, MO 64108											
<small>USCG 200242</small>															

Example of a U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Invoice & Attendance Record issued by the GSA Subsidy Administration Section to a qualifying child care provider to bill for their services.

U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Family Handbook

Payment Process, continued

Please see below a sample USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit Invoice and Attendance Form which provides instructions on the completion of the form. All Invoice & Attendance Forms must be submitted to the GSA Subsidy Administration Section within 90 days/3 months of the period of service that child care was provided.

By signing and certifying the invoice for payment, your provider and you attest that the total cost written on the form is the actual amount of child care costs billed to your family for the period of service indicated and that you have paid or have made payment arrangements for the member portion as listed on the invoice. **Please note that you are required to pay the member portion as listed prior to any benefits being issued to your provider on your behalf.**

Please note that Members are required to pay the Member portion as listed on their benefit letter and invoice prior to any benefits being issued to your provider on their behalf.

Invoices containing "NC" with the Attendance & Billing record will be prorated and paid based upon the attendance as listed. Qualifying USCG Members need to ensure that the invoice correctly reflects the proper attendance in order for their USCG Subsidy Benefit to be properly paid.

**U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Child Care Subsidy Program
Invoice & Attendance Form**

Provider: ABC CHILD CARE
Address: 123 MAIN STREET
ANYTOWN, USA 12345

Remit to Address if different than above:
Email address: ABCCHILD.CARE@XXX.COM

Tax ID # 987654321 & 00001 **Agency Rep** USCG00
Phone # (555) 456-7899 **Fax #** (555) 456-7888

Member Name JOHN SMITH
Month of Service March 2015

To complete the attendance record, place an "X" for each day of care provided or day that the family will be billed, "NC" for NO CHARGE or "T" if service was TERMINATED.

Attendance & Billing Record:

Child Name CINDY SMITH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X																		
X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X																	X	X	

Total Cost \$ 500.00
Less Member/Family Monthly Portion \$ 300.00
USCG Balance Due \$ 200.00
MAXIMUM BENEFIT \$400.00 PER MONTH

Provider Signature *Barbara Anderson*
Member Signature *John Smith*

Providers or parents who misrepresent information used to calculate Child Care Subsidy Benefits may have their benefit terminated and be subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) or other legal consequences.

Return completed Invoice & Attendance Form via any of the following:

Fax: (816) 823-5498 Mail: General Services Administration / Attention: Child Care
Email: useginvoices.childcare@gsa.gov 2300 Main St - 2SE
Questions: (866) 508-0371 Kansas City, MO 64108

USCG 100242

Your provider will complete the following:

- ✓ MONTH OF SERVICE
- ✓ ATTENDANCE & BILLING RECORD
- ✓ The TOTAL COST they are charging for their child care services
- ✓ The USCG BALANCE DUE, the Total Cost Less the Member/Family Portion
- ✓ Sign the Invoice certifying that the information is correct

You as the USCG Member, your spouse or Power of Attorney (POA) will sign certifying all the information is correct and that you have paid to your Provider the Member/Family Portion.

U.S. Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program Family Handbook

Billing Errors

Billing errors may cause an underpayment or an overpayment. The parent and provider are required to provide correct information in relation to the USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit received. If the provider was to receive an over-payment of USCG Child Care Subsidy benefits, a refund or offset of the amount of the overpayment would be due. Any overpayments, including those due to a GSA /USCG error, must be reported immediately to the families' assigned agency representative.

Once GSA has determined that an over-payment was issued and the information has been validated, the provider or family will receive an official notification which may include a request that funds be returned for further credit to the USCG **or** that future invoices will be offset (maximum offset period allowed is 90 days).

The GSA Subsidy Administration Section is responsible to collect erroneous payments made to providers for the following reasons which include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Erroneous or false information regarding eligibility or care provided
- ◆ Duplicate payments or payments made for services not rendered
- ◆ Payments made for ineligible providers or families

The GSA Subsidy Administration Section will make reasonable efforts to collect overpayments making a minimum of three notifications to providers and families. Failure by the provider to return any requested overpayment/erroneous payment will result in a federal debt being established to collect the monies. For family's that incur an overpayment due to incorrect information provided in order to calculate the benefit or a change in the family status that effects their eligibility, the GSA Subsidy Administration Section will provide documentation to the USCG Coast Guard Child Care Subsidy Program for review and action. The GSA will act on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard for all financial decisions pertaining to child care subsidy payments issued.

Families or providers who give erroneous or false information may be permanently disqualified from participating in the USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit programs upon approval of the USCG Child Care Subsidy Program Manager.

Payment Reconciliation

Families are required to make their portion of the total child care costs directly to their providers. Neither the GSA, nor the USCG, has any responsibility for ensuring that the family pays their portion. Failure of families to make their portion of child care costs may result in discontinued USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit. In addition, failure by the providers to reimburse families or credit their account for USCG Child Care Subsidy benefit received may result in disqualification from the program and repayment of funds.

